

Message Text

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11

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CG-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-14 L-03

NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-20 SPC-03 INT-08

HEW-08 H-03 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DOTE-00 JUSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8477

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E.O. 61652: N/A

TAGS: SNV, PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEXICO.

REFS: (A) STATE 195047

(B) STATE 192968

1. EMBOFFS MET OCT 16 WITH FOREIGN SECRETARIAT DIRECTOR IN CHIEF ROSENZWEIG-DIAZ AND DIRGEN FOR INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND WATERS, LUIS CABRERA; AFTER DISCUSSION, AIDE-MEMOIRE BASED ON REFTELS, WAS LEFT WITH MEXICANS.

2. IT WAS APPARENT THAT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS WERE ONLY VAGUELY FAMILIAR WITH BILATERAL COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD. ACCORDINGLY, ROSENZWEIG PROMISED TO STUDY AIDE-MEMOIRE AND GIVE FURTHER VIEWS, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK.

3. IN DISCLOSING "HIS INITIAL REACTION" (OBVIOUSLY SHARED BY LUIS CABRERA), ROSENZWEIG ENDORSED IDEA OF PERIODIC

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MEETINGS BETWEEN APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL AGENCIES (IN

THIS CASE EPA AND MEXICAN UNDERSECRETARIAT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT - SMA). AT SAME TIME, HE CAREFULLY DEFINED PURPOSE AS BEING EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. HE NOTED THAT THE VARIETY OF ISSUES COMPREHENDED UNDER RUBRIC OF BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS INVOLVE AN ARRAY OF GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES IN ADDITION TO EPA AND SMA. SPECIFICALLY, HE COMMENTED THAT QUESTIONS OF WATER CONTAMINATION SHOULD BE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE

IBWC. WHILE NOT RULING OUT AGENCY-TO-AGENCY AGREEMENTS, HE OPINED THAT EXISTING ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES SHOULD BE OBSERVED INsofar AS POSSIBLE. ROSENZWEIG WAS COOL TO IDEA OF ANY FORMAL BILATERAL TREATY OR CREATION OF PERMANENT BINATIONAL COMMISSION.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE PLEASED THAT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT INTERPOSED NO OBJECTION TO LATE NOVEMBER WORKING GROUP MEETINGS. HOWEVER, GIST OF ROSENZWEIG'S REMARKS WAS THAT JWG NOT HAVE ANY PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES. IF THIS IN FACT IS LATER ENUNCIATED AS FOREIGN SECRETARIAT'S POSITION, IT COULD RESULT IN BUREAUCRATIC WRANGLING WITHIN THE GOM. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, WE SHOULD REMAIN ALOOF FROM ANY DISPUTE WHICH MIGHT ARISE BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT AND SMA. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS TO DATE, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT MEXICANS HAVE ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVES (E.G.

BUILDING FUTURE CLAIMS CASE) IN REGARD TO PROPOSAL UNDER DISCUSSION.
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